

## Message Text

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45

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 PM-09 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 IO-12

RSR-01 /105 W

----- 116853

O R 051230 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3448

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CDR JCRC NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2553

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: PW'S IN LAOS

REF: STATE 062553

1. IN VIEW OF STATEMENTS MADE BY LPF HERE AND  
IN HANOI IN CONNECTION WITH THE RELEASE ON MARCH 28  
OF USPW'S ON FEB 1 LAOS LIST, AND IN ABSENCE OF ANY  
PROBATIVE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, EMBASSY IS  
RELUCTANTLY APPROACHING CONCLUSION THAT LPF DOES NOT  
HOLD ADDITIONAL U. S. PRISONERS. AS WE REPORTED IN  
RECENT COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, LPF PERM REP  
SOTH PHETRASY HAS TOLD DCM THAT SO FAR AS HE KNOWS,  
THE NINE AMERICANS ON FEB 1 LIST WERE THE ONLY  
USPW'S HELD BY THE PL. ALTHOUGH SOTH AGREED TO SEEK  
CONFIRMATION OF THIS FACT FROM SAM NEUA AND INFORM  
US OF REPLY, HE HAS NOT YET PROVIDED THE REQUESTED  
CONFIRMATION. WE CONSIDER IT SIGNIFICANT IN THIS  
REGARD THAT TEXT OF ORIGINAL RELEASE DOCUMENT PROFFERED  
BY LPF REP AT HANOI RELEASE CEREMONY SIMILARLY STATED  
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THAT THE NINE RETURNEES WERE THE ONLY AMERICANS HELD BY THE LPF. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT TEXT OF THAT STATEMENT WAS PROVIDED BY SAM NEUA HEADQUARTERS.

2. WE HAVE REVIEWED WITH INTEREST FBIS BANGKOK 021335 Z APRIL 73 WHICH TRANSMITS TEXT OF RADION PATHET LAO MESSAGE CONCERNING LAST WEEK'S RELEASE OF USPW'S. THE GENERAL TENOR OF THAT MESSAGE APPEARS TO UNDERSCORE LPF POSITION THAT THERE ARE NO MORE USPW'S BEING HELD.

3. ALTHOUGH WE ARE MAINTAINING DIALOGUE WITH LPF RE POSSIBILITY THAT ADDITIONAL PW'S MAY BE HELD IN REMOTE AREAS OF PL ZONE OF CONTROL, WE EXPECT RECEIVED NEGATIVE RESPONSE. EMBASSY'S ACTIVITY IS CURRENTLY BEING DIRECTED TOWARD PROGRAM OF ACCOUNTING FOR MIA'S. THE BASIS FOR AN MIA ACCOUNTING IS PRESENT IN ARTICLE FIVE OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE MILITARY PROTOCOL CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED WILL PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM FOR ACCOUNTING FOR LAOS MIA'S. WE HAVE ALREADY ALERTED SOUTH PHETRASY OF INTENSE USG CONCERN IN THIS REGARD AND HIS INITIAL REACTIONS WERE FAVORABLE. EMBASSY IS IN CONTINUAL CONTACT WITH THE JCRC, WHICH WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM IN LAOS.

4. RE PARA TWO REFTEL, WE CONCUR HEARTILY IN DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT REGARDING MOST RECENT LINDSTROM FORAY INTO PW/ MIA PICTURE. ALTHOUGH LINDSTROM'S STATEMENT DOES NOT WARRANT FURTHER COMMENT, WE NOTE THAT FIRST AND LAST COORDINATES REPORTED ARE ACTUALLY IN NVN. OTHER COORDINATES LISTED ARE WITHIN GENERAL AREA OF BAN NAKAY NEUA, WHICH HAS FOR YEARS BEEN REPORTED TO CONTAIN PL DETENTION FACILITIES. WE HAVE NEVER HAD CONFIRMATION THAT USPW'S WERE DETAINED THERE. EMBASSY IS CERTAIN THAT ONE OR ALL OF THE VIENTIANE CONTINGENT OF UNRELIABLE SELF-APPOINTED PW EMISSARIES (PERCIFIED, MCDONALY, DEWEY) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS AND PAST FALSE REPORTS OF USPW PRESENCE IN LAOS.

5. ALTHOUGH US MISSION THROUGH THE YEARS HAS UTILIZED EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS TO OBTAIN VALID INFORMATION CONCERNING MIA'S IN LAOS, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO  
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IDENTIFY CONCLUSIVELY ANY U. S. PERSONNEL BEING HELD

CAPTIVE OR IDENTIFY CONCLUSIVELY A SPECIFIC DETENTION FACILITY FOR U. S. PRISONERS. THEREFORE, ANY REPORT OF CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS STILL BEING HELD CAPTIVE IN LAOS, AS RECENTLY REPORTED IN THE PRESS, HAS NO BASIS IN FACT AND IS PURE SPECULATION ON THE PART OF UNINFORMED AND IRRESPONSIBLE PERSONS.

6. DCN AND SENATOR BROOKE HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH SOTH PHETRASY AT 1100 HOURS 6 APRIL. WE EXPECT TO DISCUSS PWS/ MIAS AT THE TIME. WE WILL REPORT RESULTS OF MEETING IMMEDIATELY IN HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN MAY DRAW CURRENT INFORMATION FROM THAT DISCUSSION. GODLEY

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**Subject:** PW' S IN LAOS  
**TAGS:** MOPS, LA  
**To:** BANGKOK  
CDR JCRC NKP THAI  
DPW  
PARIS  
SAIGON  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
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